

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 SY-10 CPR-02 PPT-02

SCA-01 VO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 /154 W
----- 034630

R 241515 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0130

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0710

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CPAS LY

SUBJECT: PASSPORTS: PROGRESS IN LARG CAMPAIGN?

1. LNA CARRIES FOLLOWING ITEM MAY 24: QUOTE: THE
LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SOVIET UNION
AND SPAIN HAVE AGREED TO INTRODUCE THE ARABIC LANGUAGE
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ON THE PASSPORTS OF THEIR CITIZENS.

" INDIA MALTA , CHAD, NIGER, SOMALIA AND MALI EARLIER
EXPRESSED READINESS TO USE THE ARABIC LANGUAGE ON

THEIR CITIZENS' PASSPORTS. UNQUOTE.

2. AS I HAD HEARD THAT ITEM ON LIBYAN RADIO MAY 23, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY THAT EVENING SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM SOV AMB YAKUSHIN AT SOCIAL EVENT. HE SURPRISED, ASKED WHAT RADIO HAD SAID EXACTLY, THEN EXPLAINED AS FOLLOWS: EARLIER THIS WEEK HE HAD CALLED ON ACTING FONMIN OBEIDI AND WHEN SUBJECT PASSPORTS AROSE GAVE HIM STANDARD SOVIET ANSWER-- USSR STANDS FOR RECIPROCITY, AND IF LARG INSISTS ON ARABIC IN SOVIET PASSPORTS, SOVS WILL INSIST ON RUSSIAN IN LIBYAN PASSPORTS. OBEIDI SAID HE WOULD HAVE TAKE MATTER UP AT HIGHER LEVEL, BUT MAYBE SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT. THAT WAS LAST THING YAKUSHIN HAD HEARD ON SUBJECT TILL I SPOKE TO HIM. AS IT WAS CLEAR YAKUSHIN WAS NOT GOING TO DISAVOW THE LNA STORY, I ASKED IF SOVS WOULD REFUSE VISAS ON ANY LIBYAN PASSPORTS NOT STAMPED IN RUSSIAN. HE SAID HE THOUGHT SO, AND ANYWAY ALL LIBYAN APPLICATIONS MUST BE REFERRED TO MOSCOW FOR APPROVAL.

3. COMMENT: WHILE FEW LIBYANS EVER TRAVEL TO SOVIET UNION, OR FOR THAT MATTER ANY OTHER COUNTRY LISTED ABOVE EXCEPT MALTA, OBVIOUSLY OBEIDI AND CO. MUST BE PLEASED AT PROGRESS THEY APPARENTLY MAKING. CORRESPONDINGLY, NATO WILL TEND TO BE DEMORALIZED, THOUGH PERHAPS UNNECESSARILY SO. NATO MAJORS ARE THE ONLY BIG COUNTERS IN THIS GAME.

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To: STATE INFO ALGIERS
ANKARA
ATHENS
BEIRUT
BONN
BRUSSELS
CAIRO

THE HAGUE
LONDON
MOSCOW
PARIS
RABAT
ROME
TUNIS
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